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LOUISVILLE MAN INDICTED FOR RECEIPT AND POSSESSION OF CHILD PORNOGRAPHY AT LOUISVILLE FREE PUBLIC LIBRARY

LOUISVILLE, KY - A federal grand jury in Louisville returned an indictment against Gary Neagle, age 44, of 867 South 3rd Street, Apartment 205, Louisville, Kentucky, in Jefferson County, on charges of knowingly receiving and possessing material containing child pornography that had been mailed, shipped, or transported in interstate or foreign commerce, in violation of Title 18, United States Code, Section 2252A, U.S. Attorney David L. Huber of the Western District of Kentucky announced today.

The Indictment alleges that on June 6, 14, and 16 of 2006, Gary Neagle knowingly received child pornography; that on October 7, 2006, Neagle attempted to receive child pornography; and that on August 14, 2006, Neagle possessed child pornography. According to the Indictment, Neagle was also known as "Wendy Carlson." Neagle had used the internet services offered by the Louisville Free Public Library. U.S. Attorney Huber praised the actions of the Louisville Free Public Library officials in the investigation of the case saying "that they were extremely cooperative."

As a result of the investigation and prosecution of <u>United States v. Davis</u>, the Louisville Free Public Library has worked closely with law enforcement officials and the United States Attorney's Office to identify ways the Library can improve its security measures to prevent online child sexual exploitation at its facilities. Michael Davis was sentenced to 6 1/2 years on

child pornography charges on May 7, 2007.

He also praised the work of Louisville Metro Police Department's Crimes Against Children Unit. Huber said that 47 percent of his office's child pornography cases "come from the outstanding police work of local and state police, like LMPD."

Neagle's actions were discovered when the Louisville Metropolitan Police Department's Crimes against Children Unit received Cybertipline Reports from the National Center for Missing and Exploited Children indicating that an individual using the screen name "LAFFINGDOG," was uploading child pornography from the Louisville Free Public Library and storing child pornography on Yahoo!'s server from April of 2004 until October of 2006. "LAFFINGDOG" was found to be Neagle. The accounts held by Neagle, as well as additional accounts which were later found, contained thousands of images of child pornography and child erotica. In addition to utilizing computers at the Louisville Free Public Library, Neagle accessed his email accounts using a computer at his employer, Puritan Uniform Rental in Louisville, Kentucky.

Neagle appeared before Magistrate Judge James D. Moyer on May 3, 2007 to answer to the Complaint filed against him, and Magistrate Moyer ordered Neagle detained, finding that he posed a danger to the community which could not be adequately addressed through conditions of release.

If convicted, Neagle faces a mandatory minimum of not less than 15 years imprisonment and a potential penalty of 180 years imprisonment, a \$1,250,000 fine, and supervised release for a period of a term of years up to and including life.

This case was brought as part of Project Safe Childhood. In February 2006, Attorney General Alberto R. Gonzales created Project Safe Childhood, a nationwide initiative designed to protect children from online exploitation and abuse. Led by the United States Attorneys Offices,

Project Safe Childhood marshals federal, state and local resources to better locate, apprehend, and prosecute individuals who exploit children via the Internet, as well as identify and rescue victims. For more information about Project Safe Childhood, please visit www.projectsafechildhood.gov/.

The case is being prosecuted by Assistant United States Attorney Ann Claire Phillips, and it was investigated by the Louisville Metropolitan Police Department.

The indictment of a person by a Grand Jury is an accusation only and that person is presumed innocent until and unless proven guilty.

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